



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC2515

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

27 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about framework agreements, which APHA received on 07 September 2021. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Please provide a copy of the current frameworks listed below:

1. TB Reactor Removal Framework
2. The Animal Health & Technical Support Services Framework (Including Daily Routine Work and Outbreak/Incident Support)

Please confirm which government departments purchase services under each Framework.

Please confirm the term of each Framework and their expiry date.

Please provide information showing the level of fees earned in each year of each Framework by each individual supplier.”

Please provide a copy of the current frameworks listed below:

These are released as part of a tender exercise and can be found here:

1. TB Reactor Removal Framework - (RRF) [Reactor Removal Framework - England \(Lots 3, 4, 5 and 6\) - Contracts Finder](#)
2. The Animal Health & Technical Support Services Framework (Including Daily Routine Work and Outbreak/Incident Support) - (AHTSS) [The Animal Health &](#)

[Technical Support Services Framework \(Including Daily Routine Work and Outbreak/Incident Support\) - Contracts Finder](#)

Please confirm which government departments purchase services under each Framework.

1. RRF – Defra / APHA
2. AHTSS – A list of contracting bodies that could use the framework can be found in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) notice available via this link: [Services - 458513-2016 - TED Tenders Electronic Daily \(europa.eu\)](#)

Please confirm the term of each Framework and their expiry date.

Each framework had a duration of 4 years, the expiry dates are as follows:

1. RRF – 03/12/2021
2. AHTSS – 18/09/2020 (this expired last year)

Please provide information showing the level of fees earned in each year of each Framework by each individual supplier.

Please note that under Section 43 of the FOIA we are unable to disclose information that would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person, and as such exemptions have been applied.

Section 43

Section 43(2) of the FOIA exempts information if its disclosure under the Act would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. The exemption in Section 43 is subject to a Public Interest Test to ensure it is being appropriately applied.

Public Interest Test

APHA has determined that the information would allow competitors to work out its pricing mechanisms as orders are allocated using a selection methodology based on the prices they provided as part of the tender.

In this case there is a real risk of commercial prejudice to businesses and to their ability to compete and a very strong likelihood that this would then lead to financial losses. We recognise that there is a general presumption in favour of openness and transparency concerning our work and providing the public with the right to request access to information held by public authorities.

We also recognise that this would increase transparency and aid well-informed debates concerning our contracted work.

However, our relationship with our customers is based on trust. Releasing this information could prejudice the commercial interests of any such establishments. This could then lead to financial losses.

Furthermore, this would result in breach of confidentiality between APHA and its customers and could potentially lead to an adverse working relationship and interfere with APHA carrying out its statutory duties.

We therefore conclude this exemption is maintained as the commercial interest of our customers outweighs that of the public right to know.

APHA's tendering contracts are shared with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) e-tendering portal, Bravo, found here:

<https://defra.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html> .

APHA would encourage you to register your company's details with Bravo and set up alerts for specific tendering opportunities where you believe you can offer your services.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

An Annex is attached which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Postal requests during the COVID-19 outbreak

APHA are currently experiencing delays in replying to post received. You should send queries to the relevant email address (details below) wherever possible. Please remember to include a return email address.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can also be used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email enquiries@apha.gov.uk and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Coronavirus

If you need to contact the ICO during the Coronavirus pandemic, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.